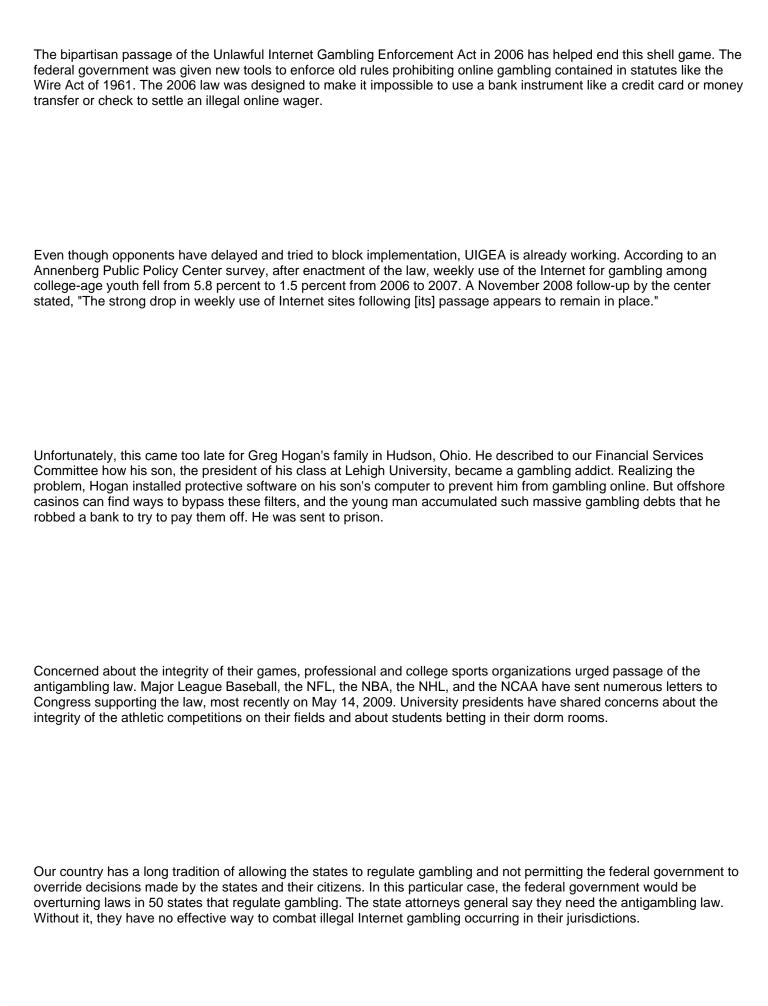
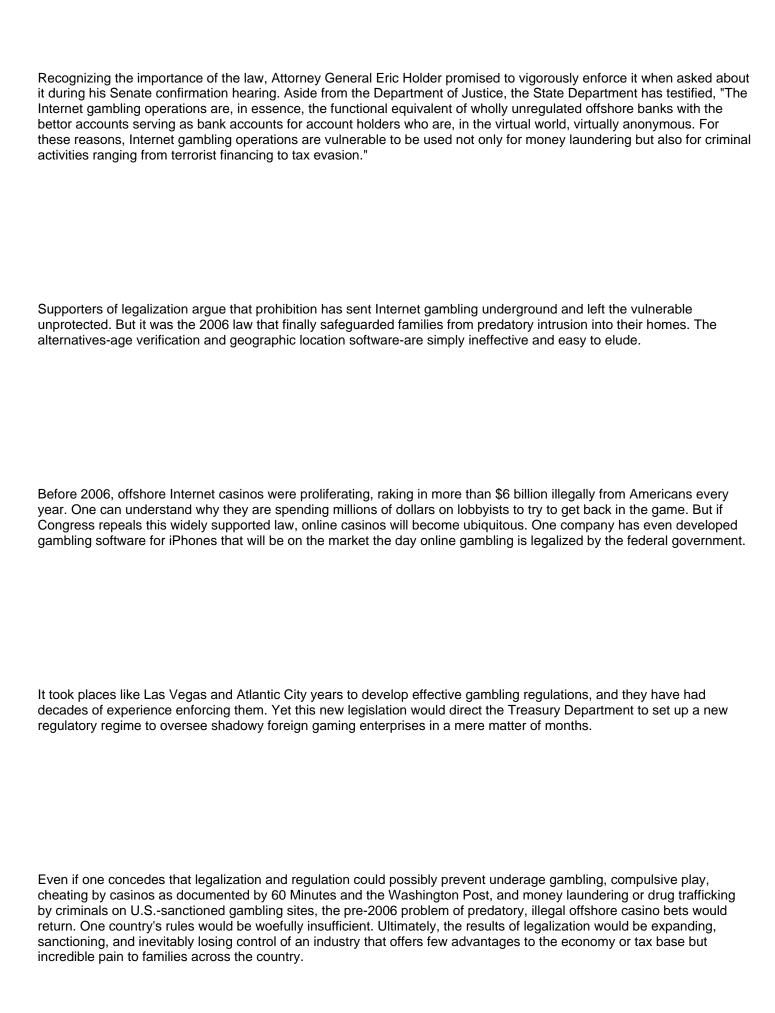
Online Gambling Leads to Crime and Hurts Young, So Why Encourage It? Asks Spencer Bachus

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Computer betting lures the young and leads to crime. Government should not send the wrong message.
By Spencer Bachus
US News and World Report
In the history of our country, the federal government has never authorized or sanctioned gambling of any kind. Now, offshore casino interests are leading an unprecedented effort to legalize Internet gambling.
Internet gambling's characteristics are unique: Online players can gamble 24 hours a day, seven days a week from
home; children may play without sufficient age verification; and betting with a credit card can undercut a player's perception of the value of cash, leading to addiction, bankruptcy, and crime. Young people are particularly at risk because a computer in the bedroom or dorm room of a young person is a temptation that many may fall prey to.
For more than a decade, Congress has sought to deter, not promote, Internet gambling. It has always been illegal, but until recently no one could enforce the law because the casinos were offshore, far away from the jurisdiction of law enforcement.





It's a gamble that simply is not worth taking.

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